Relief to displaced persons at LoC

†2845. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons displaced by the deployment of army at large scale on Line of Control and International Border in Jammu and Kashmir alongwith the details of the villages;

(b) the details of the arrangements made for the displaced persons for their shelter and food etc. since the time of displacement and whether there is any scheme to send them back to their homes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Due to the shelling by Pakistan and military build up along the Line of Control/International Border in December, 2001, 26142 families comprising 1,32,993 persons were affected in Jammu region as per information available. Some of these families have been accommodated properly in the Government buildings and tented accommodation in the various camps established by the State Government in the districts of Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch and are being provided blankets etc. and all other civic amenities. The Relief Package sanctioned by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir is also being provided to the migrant families. The Government have recently decided to relocate the troops without compromising the capacity to respond decisively to any emergency, and without lowering of vigil in Jammu & Kashmir.

Purchase of arms and aircrafts on geo-political strategic consideration

2846. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided that all major international purchases such as arms and aircraft will now be awarded on the basis of geo-political strategic consideration and not on price consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.